

# RSA SecurID Fobs

## Category: Security & Logging In

An RSA SecurID fob is mailed to each new NAS user, and is required to log into the NAS systems. The fob is a way of identifying yourself by proving you have something (fob) and you know something (your PIN). For continuing users, a new fob is mailed when the old one expires.

In December 2004, NASA's Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) directed the agency to secure its supercomputing facilities with the RSA Security Inc.'s SecurID technology.

## Fob Description

RSA's SecurID fob is an electronic device that generates a time-based pseudo-random number (called the tokencode) every 30 seconds, and presents the tokencode via its LCD display. When used in conjunction with a personal identifying number (PIN), the pair is used to authenticate account access, such as login. This is known as One Time Password (OTP) technology.

The front face of a NAS-provided fob presents an LCD displaying six digits. The digits displayed will change every 30 seconds. Left of the six digits, six bars are displayed. These bars act as the countdown timer for the current token code displayed. Each of the six bars disappear at regular intervals until all bars are gone, at which point a new random number will be displayed and six bars re-appear to restart the countdown process.

The back side of a fob has three identifiers:

- Serial Number: This numerical sequence is unique for each fob
- Expiration Date: The "mm/dd/yy" format identifies the battery's termination date
- Mfr's Lot Number: The manufacturer's batch identifier

## Fob Care

Do not expose the fob to extreme temperature, pressure, x-rays, or magnetic fields.

If your fob is damaged or lost, immediately contact the NAS Control Room at 800-331-8737 or 650-604-4444. A Control Room analyst will initiate steps to replace your fob. Expect typical postal delivery delays. In addition, the analyst will issue you a set of 10 passwords (each usable only once and in combination with your PIN). You may request another set if the initial set is used before you receive your new fob.

More information about RSA SecurID can be found at <http://www.rsa.com/>

## **Related Articles**

[Enabling Your SecurID Fob and First-Time Login](#)

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Article ID: 58

Last updated: 11 Apr, 2011

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<http://www.nas.nasa.gov/hecc/support/kb/entry/58/?ajax=1>